

IAFC Resolution: Support of new broadband spectrum proposal

November 6, 2006

International Association of Fire Chiefs Resolution Adopted October 26, 2006 Board of Directors

Support for proposal to allocate to public safety an additional 30 MHz of radio spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band to allow for development of a new nationwide public safety broadband network.

Whereas, the fire service and public safety personnel require access to the most advanced communications services that are available and increased public safety and emergency response needs require access by public safety to the latest broadband technologies and services being developed for commercial network customers, and;

Whereas, the broadband communications needs of public safety have become more clear and compelling in recent years, the existing spectrum allocations to public safety have been recognized as inadequate for those purposes, and it is in the public interest to provide public safety access to sufficient suitable spectrum to encourage the development of a next generation broadband nationwide public safety network, and;

Whereas, the scheduled availability of recovered analog spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band affords the nation a unique opportunity to secure sufficient contiguous spectrum to support a new, truly national broadband network that would be built, maintained and operated for the primary benefit of public safety and the citizens whose lives and property they are tasked to protect, and;

Whereas, a proposal has been filed with the Federal Communications Commission which would provide for a Public Safety Broadband Trust of radio spectrum for a nationwide, seamless, next generation broadband network capable of integrating broadband data services such as text messaging, photos, diagrams and video not currently available in existing public safety land mobile systems using 30 MHz of spectrum at present scheduled to be auctioned by the FCC, and;

Whereas, our nation has a one-time opportunity to take advantage of the clearance of a nationwide block of 30 MHz of contiguous frequencies in the 700 MHz spectrum band which is adjacent to spectrum currently allocated to public safety and is spectrum perfectly matched for the establishment of a next-generation broadband nationwide network because of its unique physical properties, and;

Whereas, our nation will lose a tremendous opportunity to improve public safety communications through enhanced interoperability and perhaps its last meaningful chance of creating a fully interoperable, advanced nationwide public safety communication system, capable of linking each and every local, tribal, state, and federal emergency responder, and necessary to securing and defending the homeland,

if a debate is not initiated to license this spectrum to public safety for a nationwide broadband network before the spectrum is auctioned off and lost forever;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the International Association of Fire Chiefs supports the allocation of 30 MHz of spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band to be held in trust for public safety to create a nationwide public safety network, and;

Be It Further Resolved, that the board of directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and its membership actively engage their respective governmental executive and legislative components, and coordinate their efforts to achieve the goal of developing a nationwide broadband public safety communications network for the fire service and public safety community.